

For immediate release

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Chairman Stephen F. Lynch (D-Mass) announced the departure of Tania A. Shand, the Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Shand has been tapped by President Obama's administration to serve as the Director of the Office of Congressional Relations for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The agency's Acting Director, Kathie Ann Whipple, said in a recent press release that Shand's "depth of knowledge on the legislative process and with issues affecting the federal workforce," made her the perfect choice for the appointment.

"On behalf of the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, I congratulate Tania Shand on her new position as Director of the Office of Congressional Relations for the Office of Personnel Management," Chairman Stephen F. Lynch said. "President Obama has again chosen wisely. Tania has played a vital role in the day-to-day operations of the Subcommittee, and we will miss her energy, knowledge, and commitment to issues pertaining to our federal employees, the United States Postal Service, and the District of Columbia. She takes with her over 10 years of experience on Capitol Hill and I wish her the best of luck in this new endeavor."

Shand began her Legislative Branch service in 1998 as a professional staff member with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Civil Service and the Agency Organization Subcommittee. Last Congress she played an important role in insuring that Federal employees enrolled in Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 2009 preserved their benefits for surgical procedures provided by out-of-network physicians at a reasonable cost.

One of Shand's most notable achievements while serving as Staff Director, was her instrumental role in helping push the Government Accountability Office Act of 2008 through every level of Congress. This act restored inflation protection to every single GAO employee, requiring that employees who performed satisfactorily receive the same annual COLAs as all other federal employees.

"In sum, from endless hard work by Tania Shand, a great series of events has come forth that have had a tremendous positive impact on the lives and morale of hundreds of GAO employees," said Dr. Jonathan R. Tumin, Senior Analyst, Homeland Security and Justice "On behalf of everyone at GAO — Thank you Tania!"

Shand officially takes her new position as the Director of the Office of Congressional Relations for OPM on April 6, 2009.